

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17 and 29 have been canceled, and claims 18-28 and 30 are pending and allowed.

No new matter has been introduced.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 as allegedly anticipated by Sakurai et al. (JP 61000017) (Office Action, page 2). Applicants have canceled claim 10, thereby obviating the rejection.

2. Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-17 as allegedly obvious over Sakurai et al. (JP 61000017). Applicants have canceled claims 11-17, thereby obviating the rejection.

3. Conclusion

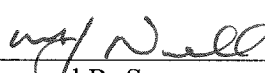
In view of the above-presented amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request immediate allowance of the present application, the claims of which are drawn to allowed subject matter.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Svensson (Reg. No. 30,330) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By  #36,623
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